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FIRES DESTROY!

WHAT FIRES DO TO YOUR OZARKS

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

TO THE CHILDREN OF THE OZARK MOUNTAINS

STOP BURNING THE WOODS



Fires are set in the woods of the Ozarks, because many people have always believed that fires do more good than harm. That is a great mistake.

A man may wish to clear his own land if he keeps his fires from spreading, by plowing a furrow around it; by making piles of what he wishes to burn instead of burning it while it is scattered about; by picking days to burn when there is little wind or none at all, or when the weather is damp and not dry, he may keep the fire on his own land and perhaps not harm anyone else.

But fires let loose in the woods have ruined a great deal of good land in the Ozarks. When fires burn over the ground time after time they not only kill or hurt the trees, but they leave the soil bare, so that the rains wash it away.

Fires also kill off the best grasses and other plants which are good for stock to eat, and tougher grasses and weed plants of less use to cattle and game come up in their place.



There are many places all through the Ozarks where people at one time could make a good living, but which now are deserted because the rich soil where things once could grow has been washed away. Fires are one cause of that.

Fire running on the ground kills little trees, which are tender. It also kills many of the older trees and scars the trunks of countless others. Diseases get into the trees through these scars, and the heat damages them for lumber and other uses.



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But the saddest thing about fires in the woods of the Ozarks is what they do to the wild things. Young birds and animals are killed or crippled by early spring and summer fires. Mother birds often refuse to leave their nests when the fire comes. They stay there trying bravely to save their babies and they are burned and tortured to death by the flames.



You like to catch fish, but fires in the woods often kill fish. The shade along the banks is destroyed and ashes wash into the streams when it rains. Fish cannot live in such streams.

Forests help people to live by supplying timber for homes and wood to keep us warm. They help save the good soil from being washed away. They are homes for the wild things, which cannot live without places to feed and to hide. They give us beauty, and a hundred uses which make our lives happier.

If we use the woods wisely, we always can have them and their benefits. But we can destroy them by letting fires run loose in the woods. This is your country. You can help the Forest Service to protect and restore it. One of the most useful things you can do is to help prevent fires.

Be good to the Forests, and they will be good to you.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FOREST - WRITE OR CALL
FOREST SUPERVISOR - PAUL D. KELLETER
"Clark National Forest"

NEW FEDERAL BUILDING - 1114 MARKET ST., ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

OR YOUR NEAREST FOREST RANGER

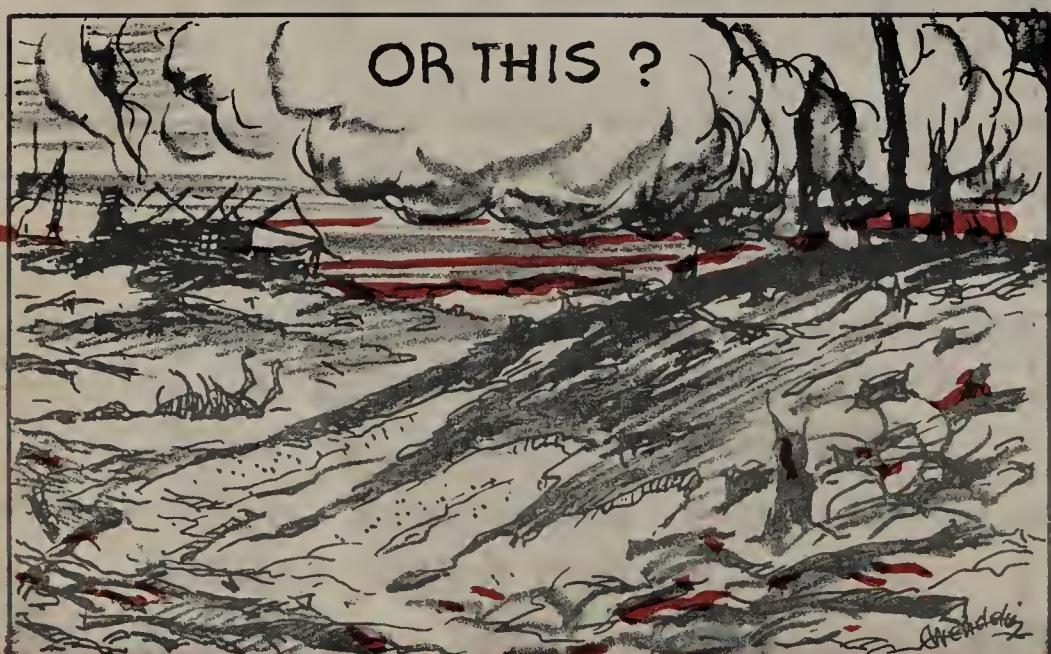


KEEP THE FORESTS GREEN

DO YOU WANT THIS?



OR THIS?



HELP PREVENT FIRES